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CONTACT: Diane Nevill, 623-930-3554

Public Information Officer

Sarah Herlache, 623-930-3844

Reference Librarian

Ivy Jarvis, 623-930-3846

Reference Librarian

A Series Celebrating Arizona's Arts and Heritage Starting in February at Foothills Branch Library

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Coming off the immense success of last spring's Canyon Country series at Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave., librarians Sarah Herlache and Ivy Jarvis wasted no time in planning "Voices from Our Past: A Celebration of Arizona's Arts and Heritage." The free series, funded in part by a grant from the City of Glendale Arts Commission, consists of lectures, workshops, performance and book discussion groups. It starts February 15 and runs through March 21.

"I think one of the reasons this type of series is so popular is that there are different formats of programming; these attract many different facets of the community," says Sarah Herlache.

The first event is a performance by Trail Dust Ensemble at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15 in the Roadrunner Room. "Trail Dust: Cowboy Poetry and Music" is a high-spirited presentation of story, song and poetry, ranging from jovial tall tales to melancholy cowboy tunes. Coming west in wagon trains, the settlers would entertain each other around the campfire with songs and stories—tales of broken hearts, stampedes, true love and striking it rich. Sometimes the hardships or scenery were on such a grand scale that only a tall tale would do. Trail Dust Ensemble, a diverse group of accomplished men and women, continue that tradition, playing off one another in round-robin style.

Other performances in this series include:

Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. (Roadrunner Room) – "Arizona's Finest Fiddler: Doc Rolland." Wah-Hoo!! Get ready for a toe-tapping good time with Doc Rolland as he performs lively instrumentals and old songs from bluegrass, country and, especially, cowboy music traditions. He hopes you will join him as

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vigorously and enthusiastically as your sense of decorum allows, with foot stomping, hand clapping, toe wiggling, and singing along as the spirit moves you. Peter 'Doc' Rolland has preserved and purveyed Arizona's fiddling and authentic cowboy music traditions to audiences in the United States, Canada and Western Europe for over three decades. His masterful and soulful fiddling, powerful vocals, and infectious exuberance underpin his uncanny ability to draw audiences into the fascinating history of traditional country music. Doc is the 1996 Arizona State Fiddle Champion and the three-time winner (2000, 2001 & 2002) of the Certified Division of the National Old-time Fiddle Contest. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Doc traveled around Arizona collecting fiddling repertoires of elderly fiddlers which live on in his performances and recordings.

“Estun-Bah: Native American Flute” will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 8 in the Roadrunner Room. Estun-Bah in the Apache language means “For the Woman.” Young men used the flute in ancient times in courtship to capture the attention of young women. Today, Estun-Bah continues to use the flute to create beautiful and enchanting music, inspiring a mood similar to that created by the flute players of years past. Tony Duncan, of Yellowbird Productions, is the featured flutist in this Native American flute and guitar duo. Performers from Yellowbird Productions have appeared with the Phoenix Symphony, at the Kennedy Center, and the Smithsonian Institute, as well as at numerous international institutions and performing arts festivals.

Mining and gunfighters are synonymous in the folklore of Arizona history. Two former teachers will discuss these still popular topics in the following scheduled lectures:

“Arizona’s Ghost Towns and Mining Camps” will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 22 in the Roadrunner Room. Arizona’s ghost towns and mining camps are the only remaining vestige of western history that can be visited in their original setting. Thus, they tell much about life before modern times, as well as what is possible in terms of preservation. Some of the historic sites have become popular tourist destinations, commercializing history and destroying the historical perspective, while others have remained off the beaten track. Join Professor Emeritus of History at Arizona State University, Robert A. Trennert, for a lecture and slide presentation which will take a historical look at a number of Arizona ghost towns ranging from mining camps like Vulture City and Chloride to deserted Route 66 locations such as Bellemont.

Writer John H. Ziegler will discuss “Gunfight at the OK Corral” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13 in the Roadrunner Room. The OK Corral shootout is shrouded in myth. Through research in legal documents, photographs, diaries, newspapers, and scholarly studies, Ziegler examines the confrontation as it looked in the late fall of 1881. Ziegler believes that the gunfight centered on the political and financial control of Tombstone. The shootout marked the climax of a power struggle between the

“world unfenced” of the cowboys and the law-and-order world of the town-centered Earps. Contrary to what novelists and screenwriters have portrayed, Tombstone in 1881 was evenly divided in its sympathies. Ziegler is a writer who is interested in the history of the American West. He makes his home in Tombstone, where the history he talks about took place. Formerly a college philosophy and film teacher, Dr. Ziegler is now retired.

The Arizona Humanities Council is co-sponsoring the lectures.

Two artistry workshops, for participants ages 18 and over, will be occurring, and both will be taught by instructor Christy Puetz:

“Desert Treasures: Petroglyph Bead Necklaces” will be offered at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28 in the Roadrunner Room. Arizona's first peoples used petroglyphs as a means to communicate territories, events, stories or just to say "I was here." These artful symbols have stood the test of time to be rediscovered all around Arizona. In this workshop you will use traditional petroglyph symbols, or create your own, to tell unique stories. The symbols will be drawn on top of a polymer clay bead that you will create. Then you'll string them up to form a necklace with meaning.

“Memories Boxes” will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 in the Roadrunner Room. Images and objects are wonderful markers of good times, loved ones, dreams and accomplishments. Fabric, ribbons, beads and images will be provided that you may use to embellish your own "Memories Box." Participants may bring along some of their own personalized materials to add, if they wish.

Registration begins Feb. 1 for the workshops.

Arizona authors will be appearing at the following book discussions:

Nancy Turner, a Tucson resident, will take part in the discussion of her book “Sarah’s Quilt” at the Gentle Reads Book Discussion Group at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28 in the Hummingbird Room. She is also the author of “These Is My Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881 – 1901 Arizona Territories” and “The Water and the Blood.” Her novels are most beloved for their sense of adventure and strong, endearing female characters. Turner has received much critical acclaim and many literary honors for her work, including the Arizona Author Award. In “These Is My Words,” Sarah Agnes Prine told the spellbinding story of an extraordinary pioneer woman and her struggle to make a home in the Arizona Territories. In the mesmerizing sequel, “Sarah’s Quilt,” a three-year drought has made Sarah desperate for water. And just when it seems that life couldn’t get worse, she learns that her brother and his family are trapped in the Great San Francisco Earthquake. Turner lives in Tucson.

Stella Pope Duarte visits A Novel Approach Book Discussion Group to discuss her novel “Let Their Spirits Dance” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21 in the Hummingbird Room. Duarte is also the critically acclaimed author of “Fragile Night,” a short story collection. She was born and raised in South

Phoenix in the Barrio of Sonorita, and her background heavily inspires and influences her writings. Duarte has taught courses at the University of Phoenix and Arizona State University. “Let Their Spirits Dance” takes place 30 years after the death of Jesse Ramirez in Vietnam. His family has remained in many ways locked in a time of grief and pain. Having heard her son’s voice in a dream, Jesse’s mother, Alicia, makes a vow to touch his name in the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Alicia’s decision inspires the whole extended Ramirez family, along with assorted friends, to set out together on a road trip from their home in Phoenix to Washington D.C.

For more information or to sign up for a workshop, call 623-930-3844 or 623-930-3846.

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